

MAINE FARMER

AGRICULTURE MECHANIC ARTS GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, OUR BROTHER MAN

Renovation of Apple Trees.

There are hundreds and thousands of apple trees in the State, that have ceased bearing, not because they are too old and their vital powers exhausted by age, but because they have worked up all the material within their reach, and delivered it over to their owners in the shape of apples, long ago. They have no more capital to do business upon, and as they cannot travel in search of any, and their owners do not supply them, what else can they do but put out leaves every spring, and a few blossoms which fall abortively from the branches. They have not power to do anything else. The owners go for the fruit, but not finding any, give them up as being too old, and sometimes cut them down or suffer them to be still more neglected, until they go down by sheer starvation.

A more rational mode would be to use them as you would any other manufactory, and that is, give them more raw material to work upon than the first supply is used up. A good supply of animal manure would do this the season of anything, but if this cannot be obtained, ashes, plaster, lime, muck, leaves, and the trimmings from the branches, cut up fine and deposited around the roots of the trees, will bring them up again.

Since writing the above, we have met with some advice on this subject from an "old digger," communicated to the Horticulturalist, a valuable monthly work, published, as many know, and some perhaps do not know, (until now,) in Albany, by Luther Tucker. We advise you to take it, for it is full of just such practical advice as the following. Speaking of some good old fruit trees which have ceased bearing, but which are sound and healthy, and the owner threatens to cut down, he says: "Don't do it. Let us have a little talk over these trees. Do they ever bear good fruit in this soil? 'Bless you, yes! Such fair golden and luscious mellow flesh as I seldom see now-a-days.' How long ago it is since they have stopped bearing such fruit! 'Say a dozen or fifteen years.' What have you done for them! Not much—scrapped the bark, washed it with soap-water, spread a little compost over such as stand in the grass. Those that stand in the yard, you know, are in rich, good soil, so of course, they could not want for manure." This is what my friend says, but I don't believe a word of it—mean of the last part, they are not 'want for manure.' If I were a 'Hoozier or a Buckeye,' I would say they 'don't want anything else.' Have they not the same atmosphere to breathe, the same rain to drink, the same climate to enjoy, as when they bore the fine crops of fruit which you lament? What has changed! Nothing, absolutely nothing but the soil.

Need I go any further to establish this! I hope not. But the soil is probably pitifully run out—run out, past the power of stable manure alone to bring it up again. It is run out, as the chemists say, in the "lime and phosphates." But it can be renovated, just as surely as there is manure and lime and the phosphates to be had; and you may set about it now, if you please. Now, to do this thoroughly and well, will cost from two to three dollars a tree, labor and all included. An old officer of this sort, that has been off duty and on half pay for ten or fifteen years, can't be brought into active service again without squaring up old accounts somewhat; and you must make up your mind to this, or else have no further fruits from the old veterans.

Supposing we commence with a middle aged pear or apple tree, with a sound constitution, which has been sucking for some time past on half pay. Now, it is all very well to say that this tree don't want animal manure. Its roots have been in the same place for twenty-five or thirty years, with only a little sprinkling of something stimulating over the top of the soil, which the grass has indeed pretty much taken to itself, or a slight yearly dressing of compost, (if it has stood in the garden,) which the vegetables have devoured.

Look at its little short jointed shoots and unthrifty growth, and you will see that, first of all, it wants manure.

Very well. Now clear away every thing in the shape of trees, shrubs, bushes, or vegetables of any kind, that stand within fifteen feet of the trunk of this tree. Next, bring a good two horse wagon load of fresh stable manure, and trench it under as deeply as the roots will let you, and particularly beyond where the roots extend. It is as foolish to put manure within five or six feet of the trunk of a tree, as it would be to pour drink over the back of a thirsty man. At the very outside of the roots, trench the soil two feet deep, and mix the manure with it, leaving it rough and loose for winter; for it is there—at this outside limit—that the roots will get a good living again.

But this is not the whole which is to be done. Remember that lime and the phosphates must be supplied; for it is above all in these that old soils grow poor in.

It would not do to put them in with the fresh manure, since they would not agree well together, but would go to decomposing one-another, instead of making a succession of good dinners for the "feeders"—that is to say, the little fibres of the roots.

But the next spring, as soon as the soil is dry, you must apply each large tree manured in the fall, two bushels of ashes and a peck of plaster or gypsum, and if it is a pear tree, a half a bushel of bone dust. If it is an apple tree, you must substitute a peck of air-slacked lime for the plaster. Spread this evenly over the soil that was dug and manured last autumn, and mix it through the whole with a stout three-pronged hoe or fork. This will bring the soil to a good condition again,

and the old tree will speedily commence making new roots, setting new fruit buds, and next year you begin to bear fine fruit again. And this I do not give you from theory, but from actual trial, under the most unfavorable circumstances."

We have made a pretty long quotation, but it is all of practical value, and if any of our readers shall follow out the hints and directions here given, and renovate some of their exhausted orchards, it will be of no small service to them and the community.

Wool Business.

It cannot be expected, when more than half of the woolen factories in our vicinity are lying idle, that wool will be a very brisk article in market. Yet there are those who have not entirely given up the business of raising it, and of course feel an interest in the sales. We copy from Peter's Wool Grower, Buffalo, N. Y., the following:—"The gradual advance of cloths for the two past months has given a buoyancy and stability to the wool market, that is not looked for at this season. The increased demand for wool and fabrics on the Continent, has very much advanced prices there, especially in Germany. If the orders which have gone out are filled at all, they must be at prices that will give manufacturers a very handsome margin, and tariff or no tariff, we may look for the coming year as one of great activity and profit to that class. The operations in wool, especially of the finer grades, have been large during the month—our establishment at Lowell having bought 1,500,000 pounds. The stock in the market is quite light, and must be well worked up before the new clip comes in."

Pulled wool will form something of an item this winter.

Agricultural Bureau.

If Congress ever gets organized again, we hope they will be induced to turn their attention a few moments from political and party intrigues and tactics, and listen to the public voice which beckons to call loudly for the organization of an Agricultural Department. It is time that the advice of Washington in regard to this matter should be attended to. Other nations have a Bureau of Agriculture, and find it of great advantage. We trust that the time is coming when something of the kind will be established among us, and the Patent Office be relieved of this extra duty.

What are "Native" Cattle?

Rev. W. A. Drew, in his address before the Agricultural Societies of Kennebec and Franklin Counties, (Me.), makes the following remarks:—"With regard to stock, I suppose Maine can boast of the best working oxen of any State in the Union. When Southerners, or even people from the Middle States, come here, they are surprised at the magnificence of our ox teams. And we have native ones equal to any of the royal bloods of England."

He then goes on to speak of the valuable properties of several "native" cows, that he has known; though he gives no particulars in regard to their products, by which we can compare them with others. The meaning of the term "native," as used in this case, is, perhaps, somewhat illustrated by the paragraph which follows next in connection, in the same address, as follows:—"Our Kennebec valley is greatly indebted to the late lamented Dr. Vaughan, of Hallowell, for its enviable race of neat cattle. In the infancy of this country, when he first moved into it, he got great pains to import the best breeds from England; these became crossed with the native stock, and have built up some of the most magnificent oxen and the best milk cows in the country. Our State owes a lasting debt of gratitude to that great and truly good man for the fruits he introduced, and the cattle and sheep he imported, which now bless the State of which he was one of the earliest and truest friends."

Thus, the origin of the "enviable race of neat cattle," to be found in the Kennebec valley, is traced to the "best breeds from England," imported by Mr. Vaughan; crosses from which "have built up some of the most magnificent oxen and the best milk cows in the country!" We heartily concur in the tribute paid to the "great and truly good man," whose name is mentioned in the above quotation; but at the same time we would beg leave to correct an error. It was the late Charles Vaughan, Esq., and not Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, who imported the cattle from England. These two gentlemen, brothers, settled in Maine nearly at the same period, and both conducted important businesses that part of the country, by their liberal efforts for the improvement of its agriculture. The importation alluded to was made in 1792. It consisted of two bulls and two cows. One of the cows, while on the passage, dropped a bull calf; and this animal, having been presented by Mr. Vaughan to the late Hon. Christopher Gore, of Massachusetts, became the foundation of what was afterwards widely known as the "Gore breed." The other stock was the foundation of the celebrated herds of the Messrs. Vaughan, and was continued by them without admixture of other blood, till 1804, when a cross was made with the imported short-horn bull Denton. For nearly forty years, bulls were annually obtained from these herds, and taken to different parts of the State; and such as Bakewell, or long-horn, short-horn, or different families—Hereford, Devon, &c.—have been introduced, and crossed with the "Gore breed," the general character of the cattle of the State has undergone a great change, it is not easy to find a good animal for any purpose, that does not bear evident marks of an affinity with some of these stocks. [Albany Cultivator.]

IMPROVED SKATE.

Alex. Barely and C. W. Bouton, of Newark, N. J., have made a very beautiful improvement in the manufacture of skates, which renders them far more easy of adjustment to the foot than by the old plan. The improvement consists in providing a skeleton, malleable iron sole, to which the runner is riveted or attached by screws, and having two rings cast on the sole at both sides at the instep, to supercede the old side leathers. A steel spring is also attached to the sole under the instep, making the skates elastic with the play of the muscles of the foot, enabling the wearer to skate with great ease.

Manufacture of Cheese.

The committee appointed by the Jefferson County Agricultural Society, to examine cheese dairies, say, in their report—We endeavored to collect information from those best qualified to instruct, and to compare the different opinions upon the subject, and briefly point out the defects, (or the reasons for them,) which we noticed in our examinations. When a thermometer was used we found great uniformity as to the temperature at which the milk was set, as it is termed, for cheese, generally from 54 to 56°, the extremes being from 50 to 60°, and scaled from 100 to 106°, and a common sized tea-cup full of salt to from twelve to fifteen pounds of cheese. But where the figures for setting, scaling, and salting were the same, we found the results widely different. The most prominent reason for this difference, in our opinion, is the length of time that the curd is scaled, and the time that it is salted; if scaled at 100° and scaled one hour, it will be as hard, and make as firm cheese—all other parts of the process being the same—as it will scaled 30 minutes, at 104, or perhaps 106°; and in salting, it requires much judgment. If the salt is put into the curd before the whey is sufficiently drained off, it will drain off with the whey, leaving a lack of salt, consequently a soft, and to use a dairy term, the huffy cheese; and if the salt is put in sufficiently soon, it will not be properly mixed, making it uneven or knotty.

Cheese should be made pretty firm. It is now an article of export, and if made too soft is not only liable to loss in transportation, but a very small market, bordering upon strong, does not suit the market, a milder article being preferred. We noticed several dairymen making mistakes in this particular—endeavoring to make their cheese quite too soft, supposing it to be more marketable.

We will only add, if your cheese is too soft, scale higher and longer, and add a little more salt, and be careful not to have too much of it run off with the whey. If hard and knotty, put it in the sink; if not so remedied the matter, scale less. The following is given as the method of making cheese pursued by Mr. McAllister, to whom the first premium was awarded. The committee say, the cheese was very firm and sound on the outside, but soft and rich within.

"We set our milk immediately after skimming at about 85 degrees, mix the rennet perfectly, let it stand 45 minutes, then break it up carefully, and coarsely, let it stand 15 minutes, break it finer, let it stand and settle 15 minutes, and then dip off the whey, and then heat to 90 degrees; let it stand 30 minutes, dip off the whey again and then heat to 95 degrees; let it stand 30 minutes and then break the curd very fine, then heat to 100 degrees, let it stand 30 minutes and then dip the curd into the sink; salt soon while the curd is wet and warm—a tea-cup full of salt to the 12 pounds of cheese—press very hard."

Down-East Farming.

We find the following in the Calais Advertiser: Since publishing a brief statement a few weeks ago of what Mr. Walton and his wife had accomplished on their farm, he is raising trees, grain and vegetables, and making maple sugar, &c., and the lady in making butter, cheese, and taking care of the bees, other of our farmers have come to the conclusion that they too have done nearly if not quite as well as their neighbor Walton, and have sent us the following statement for publication, from which it will be seen that there is something done in the farming line in Topsfield, worthy of commendation; and verifies the statement we then made, that by proper cultivation, an acre of land in this section can be made to produce as much as it will in any other State in the Union. And taking all things into consideration, a farmer can do as well here as he can in any other State. Then why go to Wisconsin, Iowa, or any where else, when you can do so well here! Does any man, can any man, desire any more from an acre of land than the following, raised by Mr. Josiah Bailey, of Topsfield:

40 bush. Corn, at 50 cts. per bush. \$20.00
100 do Potatoes, at 50 cts. 50.00
10 do White Beans, at \$2. 20.00
50 do Turnips, at 30 cts. 15.00
400 Pumpkins, at 10 cts. each, 40.00
\$142.00

Here is another statement of a crop raised from an acre, by Mr. E. C. Blake of Presque Isle, which equals the above. If anything better has been done, we would like to know it—30 bushels sound corn, 175 bushels potatoes, 110 bushels turnips, 15 bushels beets, 10 bushels carrots, 2 bushels onions from seed, four bushels white beans; together with a quantity of cabbages, pumpkins, cucumbers, &c. sufficient for a large family.

We hope our farmers will take pains to keep an account of what they raise from an acre or more, and send it to us for publication—in this way much good may be done, by creating a spirit of emulation, which will result favorably to all concerned.

EFFECT OF RAILROADS ON THE MARKET.

Whether the railroad leading into New York have had a tendency to cheapen produce in the city, we cannot say; but certain it is, they have greatly enhanced the price at the farmer's door. We were struck with this at Binghamton, and many other places and cows of various breeds—such as Bakewell, or long-horn, short-horn, or different families—Hereford, Devon, &c.—have been introduced, and crossed with the "Gore breed," the general character of the cattle of the State has undergone a great change, it is not easy to find a good animal for any purpose, that does not bear evident marks of an affinity with some of these stocks. [Albany Cultivator.]

THE COST OF GOLD DIGGER.

Mr. Frazier, the correspondent of the Phoenix, estimates that from 1849 to 1850, \$49,000,000 in gold will be collected in California. It is probable that at least 100,000 persons, during the time mentioned, will visit California in search of fortunes. Allowing the expenses of each person to be \$500, we shall have as the aggregate of their expenses, \$50,000,000. So that, should Frazier's estimate prove correct, they will be minus the large sum of \$50,000,000. For our own part, we believe that the deficiency will be far greater, when the loss on ships and cargoes shall be accurately ascertained. [Ree.]

The Cow-Her Diseases and Management.

Dropsy. This is not a very common disease in cows; but when it does occur, it is more frequently met with in the chest. It is caused either from an obstruction of some of the principal organs, particularly the liver, and hence appears in conjunction with many other complaints, as jaundice, &c., or it may proceed from a general relaxation of constitution, when the powers of life are being, as it were, exhausted.

The malady is known by a swelling in the dewlap, similar to what takes place in an infant; but here it is soft and pulsy, accompanied by a diminished quantity of urine, and the eyes of the animal show a whitish appearance, with weakness and a discharge of a watery fluid.

With the above-named symptoms, the cure of this complaint is very uncertain. It is generally attempted first by giving vent to the accumulated water, and afterwards, when this is done, in endeavoring to prevent its return, by bracing up the habit. The collected water may be removed by general purging, which may be effected by the following medicines:—

Take of oil of sulphur, 9 oz; saltpetre, 14 oz. grains of Paradise, 3 drachms.

To be mixed for one dose, and given in two quarts of water, sweetened with half a pint of molasses. Along with this, a steam may be struck into the dewlap, so as to make ten or a A firmyard where cattle are to be wintered should be protected with sheds, or a high enclosure from the east and southwest winds. In a yard thus rendered sufficiently warm, cattle will do better than they will confined in a stall.

Another point of equal importance is, that the stock of all kinds at the commencement of winter should be in good heart; or, in other words, that grain should be fed liberally, as a coat of flesh is one of the best possible safeguards against the rigors of winter.

Why is not the Farmer Properly Estimated?

It is a lamentable fact, that the farmer does not occupy that elevated position in society that his occupation justly entitles him to. He is looked upon as a being quite below the lawyer, physician, divine, artist, merchant, or even a mechanic's clerk. To be a farmer, is to be a nobody, a mere clodhopper, a digger of holes, and ditches, and dung heaps, and free to wallow in the "free soil" he cultivates, provided he never seeks to elevate himself above that position, to what the world is pleased to term "good society." Hence comes the desire of "the boys" to escape, not so much the drudgery of their employment, as from the idea that they are looked upon and estimated as men.

What blindness, folly, and false philosophy is this! The result of these false premises is, that the "professions" are crowded to the starvation point; clerks not only go begging, but become beggars, or worse; merchants are multiplied; and good, old-fashioned labor is going out of fashion. While we would give all due honor to the professions, the farmer, who is the producer of all, both in food and raiment, and adds to the comfort and sustenance of the human family, need not feel that he is below occupations that gain their support from the folly, pride, misery, or wickedness of their fellow creatures.

If the aspirations of farmers were half so strong to elevate their sons as farmers, as it is to make them merchants, or professional men, and, perchance, loafers, we should soon be taught to look to the agricultural class for the best bred, as well as best fed men in America.

A Wooden Boiler.

A Pennsylvania correspondent of the Boston Cultivator, thus describes a method of boiling water, which he saw in successful operation at the house of one of the best farmers in his neighborhood.

"The box, grooved together, was six feet long and about two feet wide, the depth being, say two feet or something more. A piece of iron pipe, say four inches in diameter, entered the box at one end, within about an inch and a half of the bottom, and was continued, by means of an elbow, round the box, within an inch and a half of the sides, and coming through the opposite end, at the end at which it entered, making, therefore, the circuit of the box inside; and upon this protruding end of the pipe, was fixed an elbow, the smoke pipe extending somewhat above the top of the box. Into this pipe at its entrance were introduced corn-cobs as fuel, and it was truly surprising how few of these were necessary to raise the water to the boiling point, the draught being exceedingly great, and the water having free access to the pipe all around, which water was borne up on small blocks of wood placed on the bottom of the box. The boiler was continually in use, heating water for all sorts of purposes, the dairy in particular, and the draught regulated by partially closing or unclosing the mouth of the pipe by setting up against it a flat stone; a cover preventing evaporation, and accelerating the process of heating. When I saw it, it was in requisition for heating water for scalding slaughtered hogs, which was done by enclosing them with blankets and pouring the water upon them, most completely and expeditiously. This apparatus had long been in daily use, and had given perfect satisfaction, it being only necessary for the dairy-maid to fill the pipe with corn-cobs the first thing in the morning, and apply a match."

SALE OF PAUL'S MUSEUM.

Paul's celebrated Philadelphia Museum, which cost, about ten years since, \$100,000, was sold at auction, on Monday last, for \$3,500. It was purchased by P. T. Barnum, of New York, on joint account with himself and Moses Kimball, of the Boston Museum, both of whom have long been in treaty for it, and but for a compromise between them, it would probably have brought from \$30,000 to \$40,000. We understand that Mr. Kimball will immediately add half of it to the present collection of the Boston Museum. There are two or three paintings in the collection, which are alone valued at more than the whole was sold for.

Farmers, Look to it.

The farmer's life is considered a toilsome one, and there may be some propriety in so estimating it; but while exercise of body is required, the mind is comparatively free from that care and toil which are inseparably connected with many other pursuits. Besides, the labor of the husbandman is confined principally to the summer months, while throughout the well-timed winter he reaps the fruits of his toil. Well, the laboring season is past, and we congratulate the enterprising farmer on his abundant gathering—a rich reward for all his labor.

The earth has produced bountifully for man and beast, and the exertions of enterprise and industry are rewarded with success. Now, as the merciless winter approaches, let the farmer direct his attention to his stock, and show his gratitude by making liberal provision for their comfort and support. It is folly to suppose that because they are dumb beasts they need no protection, and yet some who have the care of them must either think so, or are destitute of feeling, else we would not see them, as we sometimes do, exposed to the pitiless hail storm without the least shelter. Horses and cattle require much less fodder when kept perfectly warm and comfortable than they do thus exposed. The stables where they are to be wintered should therefore be carefully attended to, and rendered as tight and warm as possible. Cellar barns are much the best on this account, the yard and stables being warm, and the cattle are to be wintered in a firmyard where cattle are to be wintered should be protected with sheds, or a high enclosure from the east and southwest winds. In a yard thus rendered sufficiently warm, cattle will do better than they will confined in a stall.

Another point of equal importance is, that the stock of all kinds at the commencement of winter should be in good heart; or, in other words, that grain should be fed liberally, as a coat of flesh is one of the best possible safeguards against the rigors of winter.

THE COTTAGE FIRE-SIDE.

How sweet it is at evening, when the daily toil is o'er, To sit by the cottage fire-side, and feel the warmth once more. And watch the curling vapor, through the grating chimney, And hear the faggots crackle, and to see the embers glow; And mark the fleeting hours, with its trifling train of woe; And by its ceaseless ticking, the solemn warning give, 'The moments, fast are flying,' to everything that lives. At twilight, when the stars are dim, and fall-gusts sweep the sky, And marked the living actions of the simple and the good. The grand old pines her knitting;—the slender needle flies; And on the olden board the pining kitten lies, Till startled by the truant balls, it leaves the cheerful blaze. Entangling fast the woolly thread, with joy mischievous plays. Upon the polished table the fragrant seal is spread, With yellow cream and honey comb and cakes of oaten bread. And now the father enters, and the children haste to greet, With cheerful smile and gentle voice, their honest sire to meet.

His faithful wife who ever shares her husband's grief And on the olden board the pining kitten lies, Till startled by the truant balls, it leaves the cheerful blaze. Entangling fast the woolly thread, with joy mischievous plays. Upon the polished table the fragrant seal is spread, With yellow cream and honey comb and cakes of oaten bread. And now the father enters, and the children haste to greet, With cheerful smile and gentle voice, their honest sire to meet.

From each devoted bosom, is heard the deep "Amen." The kind "Good night" is spoken, for slumber all prepare, And wake the ancient grandam, who sleeps upon the chair. And soon within the cottage, the humble bed is pressed, And all the happy family are peacefully at rest. G. A. R.

Vicissitudes of Mercantile Life.

From an article in Hunt's Magazine, we copy the following interesting statements. They afford a melancholy illustration of mercantile life:—"It is asserted that but one eminent merchant (and his death is still recent and lamented) has ever continued in active business in the city of New York, to the close of a long life, without undergoing bankruptcy, or a suspension of payments, in some one of the various crises through which the country has necessarily passed. I have a suspicion of discrediting the assertion, but it must have some foundation, and I think it would be difficult for either of us to add to the number."

It is also asserted, by reliable authority, from records kept during periods of twenty to forty years, that, of every hundred persons who commenced business in Boston, ninety-five at least, die poor; that, of the same number in New York, not two ultimately acquire wealth, after passing through the intermediate process of bankruptcy; while in Philadelphia the proportion is still smaller.

By the statistics of bankruptcy, as collected under the uniform bankrupt law of 1841.

The number of applicants for relief under the law were

Massachusetts	23,759
New York	1,618,693
The number of creditors returned	40,934,615
The amount of debts stated	43,697,607
The valuation of property surrendered	43,697,607

If this valuation were correct, nearly ten cents would have been paid on every dollar due; but what was the fact?

In the southern district of New York one cent was paid, on an average, for each dollar due; in the northern district, 12-23 cents being by far the largest dividend. "In Connecticut the average dividend was somewhat over half a cent on each dollar."

In Mississippi it was 6 cents to \$1,000. In Maine 1 " " 100 " In Michigan and Iowa 4 " " 100 " In Massachusetts 4 " " 100 " In New York 1 " " 100 " In Tennessee 1 " " 100 " In Maryland 1 dollar to 100 " In Kentucky 5 " " 100 " In Illinois 1 " " 1,500 " In Pennsylvania, East Virginia, South Alabama, Washington, Nothing.

After making every possible allowance for the enhancement of this enormous amount of debt by inflation of value, speculative prices, &c., the proportion of the \$400,000,000 lost by those of the 1,040,693 creditors who were engaged in proper and legitimate business, must still have been immense, and may justly be charged against the profits of our regular commerce.

IMPROVEMENT IN PAPER MAKING.

The readiness and facility with which the manufacture of paper is now carried on is really astonishing. The Journal of Commerce remarks:—"We were informed a few days since, by a large paper dealer in New York, that it was not uncommon for him to have in his warehouse, and sell, at 6 o'clock in the morning, paper which was in rolls a hundred and fifty miles from New York at 9 o'clock of the previous morning. A better illustration of the power of steam could not be given, or of the progress of the age. The rags are placed in the duster, thence conveyed to the troughs or vats, where (in some kinds of paper) the sizing is mixed with the pulp, and from these vats the paper passes over heated rollers, and finally between two immensely heavy iron rollers, which give it the glazed surface, and it is then cut, folded, packed, and sent to the railroad, all in the course of a few hours. The telegraph enables New York merchants to order paper at Massachusetts at any moment, and receive the returns, manufactured, and even rolled, by almost the next steamer." [Protective Union.]

A PROFITABLE SOW.

Mr. Grant, who keeps the hotel upon the wharf at Portsmouth, informs us that he has a sow that dropped thirteen pigs last April, five of which he sold, at four weeks old, for \$2 each. The others he kept until September, and fed upon the slops of the house until they became very fat, and averaged 145 lbs. a-piece, making 1,180 lbs., which brought five cents a pound, making the sow little sum of \$59.40 for the pork, and a total of \$69.40 for one litter of pigs within five months. [American Agriculturist.]

From the Boston Traveller.

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Vicissitudes of Mercantile Life.

From an article in Hunt's Magazine, we copy the following interesting statements. They afford a melancholy illustration of mercantile life:—"It is asserted that but one eminent merchant (and his death is still recent and lamented) has ever continued in active business in the city of New York, to the close of a long life, without undergoing bankruptcy, or a suspension of payments, in some one of the various crises through which the country has necessarily passed. I have a suspicion of discrediting the assertion, but it must have some foundation, and I think it would be difficult for either of us to add to the number."

It is also asserted, by reliable authority, from records kept during periods of twenty to forty years, that, of every hundred persons who commenced business in Boston, ninety-five at least, die poor; that, of the same number in New York, not two ultimately acquire wealth, after passing through the intermediate process of bankruptcy; while in Philadelphia the proportion is still smaller.

By the statistics of bankruptcy, as collected under the uniform bankrupt law of 1841.

The number of applicants for relief under the law were

Massachusetts	23,759
New York	1,618,693
The number of creditors returned	40,934,615
The amount of debts stated	43,697,607
The valuation of property surrendered	43,697,607

If this valuation were correct, nearly ten cents would have been paid on every dollar due; but what was the fact?

In the southern district of New York one cent was paid, on an average, for each dollar due; in the northern district, 12-23 cents being by far the largest dividend. "In Connecticut the average dividend was somewhat over half a cent on each dollar."

In Mississippi it was 6 cents to \$1,000. In Maine 1 " " 100 " In Michigan and Iowa 4 " " 100 " In Massachusetts 4 " " 100 " In New York 1 " " 100 " In Tennessee 1 " " 100 " In Maryland 1 dollar to 100 " In Kentucky 5 " " 100 " In Illinois 1 " " 1,500 " In Pennsylvania, East Virginia, South Alabama, Washington, Nothing.

After making every possible allowance for the enhancement of this enormous amount of debt by inflation of value, speculative prices, &c., the proportion of the \$400,000,000 lost by those of the 1,040,693 creditors who were engaged in proper and legitimate business, must still have been immense, and may justly be charged against the profits of our regular commerce.

IMPROVEMENT IN PAPER MAKING.

The readiness and facility with which the manufacture of paper is now carried on is really astonishing. The Journal of Commerce remarks:—"We were informed a few days since, by a large paper dealer in New York, that it was not uncommon for him to have in his warehouse, and sell, at 6 o'clock in the morning, paper which was in rolls a hundred and fifty miles from New York at 9 o'clock of the previous morning. A better illustration of the power of steam could not be given, or of the progress of the age. The rags are placed in the duster, thence conveyed to the troughs or vats, where (in some kinds of paper) the sizing is mixed with the pulp, and from these vats the paper passes over heated rollers, and finally between two immensely heavy iron rollers, which give it the glazed surface, and it is then cut, folded, packed, and sent to the railroad, all in the course of a few hours. The telegraph enables New York merchants to order paper at Massachusetts at any moment, and receive the returns, manufactured, and even rolled, by almost the next steamer." [Protective Union.]

A PROFITABLE SOW.

Mr. Grant, who keeps the hotel upon the wharf at Portsmouth, informs us that he has a sow that dropped thirteen pigs last April, five of which he sold, at four weeks old, for \$2 each. The others he kept until September, and fed upon the slops of the house until they became very fat, and averaged 145 lbs. a-piece, making 1,180 lbs., which brought five cents a pound, making the sow little sum of \$59.40 for the pork, and a total of \$69.40 for one litter of pigs within five months. [American Agriculturist.]

"The Old Man."

No expression that we are acquainted with, grates so harshly upon our ears as that of the "Old man," when it comes from the lips of a son speaking of his father. It is irreverent, and shows a lack of some kind of training of the child. The person who habitually uses the expression is either intimate with low characters, or he does not feel that respect and reverence due from a child to a parent.

In excuse it is said, 'tis but

From the Plains.
Mr. Thomas Forsyth, a well known mountain man, arrived in this city by the steamer yesterday. He left the Salt Lake about the 1st of September and after a long and arduous journey, he arrived here on the 10th of October. He crossed over the plains to the head waters of the Arkansas, and came in by Bent's Fort, and the Santa Fe trail.

At a stream emptying into the Arkansas below Bent's Fort, he found the Arapaho and Kiowa Indians encamped, awaiting the arrival of Maj. Fitzpatrick. Below the great timber, and but a short distance from the Indians, he met Maj. Fitzpatrick and his party, with Mr. Ward and others.

Throughout the trip, Mr. Forsyth had pleasant weather. When he left the Salt Lake settlement, most of the emigrants, including all the early trains, had gone to California.

A number of emigrants, however, expected to pass the winter at Salt Lake City and Fort Bridger. Mr. F. informs us that the Mormons have discovered a route occupying only some twenty or thirty days to cross the desert and Sierra Nevada, on which there is abundance of wood and water at every stage, and of easy crossing.

Parties of Mormons had made the whole distance from the Sacramento to the Salt Lake, with packed mules, in fifteen days. Major Stansbury, of the U. S. Topographical Corps, with his party, had arrived in the Great Basin.

It was understood that, under orders of the United States government, he would make a survey of the lake and the various streams traversing the Basin. The Mormons were not favorably regarded by the settlers.

The Mormons have raised fine crops this past season—an abundance of wheat and other grains, potatoes, turnips, &c., more than they could consume; but the intense cold has ruined a ready market for all their surplus, at high prices.

Money was plentiful and to this may be added the fact that the Mormons have established a mint of their own, at which a large amount of the California gold dust is being coined.

It was issued from various denominations, to the amount of twenty dollars. [St. Louis Republican.]

CANADA—OPINIONS OF A SCOTCH TRAVELLER.
The London News publishes a letter from a gentleman, a native of Scotland, now travelling on this continent. It is evidently from the pen of an intelligent, candid, and observant person, is written with great freedom, and contains a very common sense view of things.

Horrible Suffering.
The last steamer from Liverpool brought a melancholy tale of almost unparalleled suffering and death. The British brig ship, the *St. George*, of Newcastle, from Quebec, sprung a leak in a heavy gale on the 11th of October, and not being able to work the pumps, she became water-logged. The crew put a considerable quantity of provisions, water, and other articles in a large house, which the vessel sank on deck, when just as they had succeeded, the vessel suddenly careened over on her beam ends, and the mast and a large vessel, overboard. The decks were swept of everything, including the house and provisions, and the topsails were carried away when the vessel righted. The men now took to the tops, and made a cover of their bodies, and then, as the vessel was so low, they remained eleven days without any subsistence, excepting a very small quantity of water, when one of them died.

The necessity of eating a small portion of their companion. They continued dropping one by one, till they were all dead but Robert Hogg, chief mate, and Henry Leslie, second mate, who sustained themselves by eating the provisions of their companions, and drinking their blood. They were, in this deplorable situation twenty-five days, when, on the 5th of November, they were fallen in by the barque Helen Thompson, from St. John, N. B., taken off, and carried to England.

A BOLD PLOT OF VIOLENCE. A keg of powder was recently placed beneath the Congregational meeting house, at Bedford, Mass., and a shot was fired, which exploded the powder, blowing up the building. The powder was accidentally discovered, and the plan frustrated, before its purpose could be carried out.

The powder was carried out by two men, who were seen by the police, and were taken to the police station. The powder was found to be of the same quality as that used in the explosion of the church, and some think that that time was set for the explosion. The *Worcester Gazette* says that the explosion was carried out by two men, who were seen by the police, and were taken to the police station.

TERRIBLE RESULTS FROM BURNING FLUID. At Derby, Ct., the wife of Russell B. Brown, a well known citizen, was killed by the explosion of a keg of powder, which was used in the burning of a building. The powder was accidentally discovered, and the plan frustrated, before its purpose could be carried out.

FLORIDA INDIANS. The War Department is in possession of highly important intelligence from the Seminole and Creek Indians, who are now in the hands of the United States government. The Indians are now in the hands of the United States government, and are being treated with great kindness.

PIRE. A destructive fire broke out at Fitchburg, at 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, in the large brick factory of Heywood & Co., which was destroyed, together with a number of buildings adjacent, occupied by Heywood & Co., and the property of the factory was lost.

PEPPER FOR INCREASED MAIL FACILITIES TO CALIFORNIA. A petition is at the Merchants' Exchange for signature, praying Congress to establish a semi-monthly mail to California, in lieu of the present monthly arrangement.

TREATY WITH THE SANDWICH ISLANDS. Chas. Eames, Esq., United States Commissioner to the Sandwich Islands, has just returned from Honolulu, where he has been negotiating a treaty with the Hawaiian King, the result of which has been a complete and satisfactory treaty of amity and commerce between the United States and the Hawaiian Kingdom.

SUDDEN DEATH. John Bromfield, Esq., one of our most respected citizens, died at his residence in this city yesterday. On Saturday morning, after his return from his customary ride, he had a paralytic attack, and died at a late hour in the evening.

COMMITTEE ON CROPS.
The Committee appointed by the Trustees of the Kennebec Agricultural Society, to investigate the crops of the county, have held a meeting at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 10th of October. The Committee consist of Messrs. J. W. Williams, Chairman, J. W. Williams, Secretary, J. W. Williams, Treasurer, J. W. Williams, and J. W. Williams.

AGRICULTURAL LECTURE.
A LECTURE will be given by Mr. J. W. Williams, on the 15th of October, at 7 o'clock, at the Maine Farmer Office. The subject of the lecture will be "The Crops of the County."

DIAMOND JEWELRY.
Messrs. Stanton & Co., having been acquainted with great wealth in diamonds, I can testify to the value of the diamonds which they have sold. They have been sold at a high price, and the diamonds are of the finest quality.

THE TOWN MEETING.
The Town Meeting of the Town of Kennebec, held on the 10th of October, at 7 o'clock, at the Maine Farmer Office. The meeting was attended by a large number of the citizens of the town.

PENMANSHIP.
MR. A. JACKSON, of the Maine Farmer Office, has been appointed by the Trustees of the Kennebec Agricultural Society, to investigate the crops of the county. He will hold a meeting at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 15th of October.

FARM FOR SALE.
THE Subscriber offers for sale his excellent farm, situated in the town of Kennebec, on the east side of the river. The farm contains about twenty acres of land, and is well improved. The price is \$10,000.

LUBIN'S PERFUMERY.
A GOOD assortment of genuine French Extracts, among which, the following may be enumerated: Rose, Stange, and other fragrant essences. The prices are very low, and the quality is of the highest order.

AGENTS WANTED.
SARAH ANN HARRIS, of the Maine Farmer Office, has been appointed by the Trustees of the Kennebec Agricultural Society, to investigate the crops of the county. She will hold a meeting at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 15th of October.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE.
WE have been appointed by the Hon. Judge of Probate for the County of Kennebec, to receive and examine the claims of the estate of the late J. W. Williams, deceased. We will hold a meeting at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 15th of October.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.
BY virtue of a License from the Hon. J. W. Williams, Esq., of the Maine Farmer Office, I have been appointed Administrator of the estate of the late J. W. Williams, deceased. I will hold a meeting at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 15th of October.

NOTICE.
ALL persons indebted to the estate of the late J. W. Williams, deceased, are hereby notified to pay the same to the Administrator of the estate, at the Maine Farmer Office, on the 15th of October.

